

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01413 210935Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 /020 W

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R 210839Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4533

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 1413

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - TAIWAN'S LARGEST CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS AND THE KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS MARCH 21 BOTH EDITORIALY HELD U.S. RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL SETBACKS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND SAID U.S. OBLIGATED TO PROTECT SOUTH AGAINST NORTH VIETNAMESE VIOLATIONS OF PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT SINCE IT WAS PRODUCED IN WASHINGTON. U.S. HAS NOT KEPT ITS PROMISE AND INDOCHINA SITUATION POSES DIRECT CHALLENGE U.S. NATIONAL DESTINY. END SUMMAY.

2. LARGEST CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) AND KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (300,000) MARCH 21 SAID DANGEROUS SITUATION IN INDOCHINA POSES DIRECT CHALLENGE U.S. NATIONAL DESTINY. UNITED DAILY NEWS TERMED SUDDEN WORSENING SITUATION STRATEGIC RETREAT BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE AFTER NORTH VIETNAMESE, WITH STRONG RUSSIAN AND RED CHINESE BACKING, THREW MORE DIVISIONS INTO SOUTH TIPPING BALANCE AGAINST SAIGON. MUST HAVE BEEN PAINFUL DECISION FOR PRESIDENT THIEU MAKING DREADFUL PULLBACKS AND LEAVING SIX NORTHERN PROVINCES TO COMMUNISTS. BOTH PAPERS QUESTIONED WHAT SAIGON COULD DO IN FACE OF OVERWJELMING

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ODDS AND DWINDLING SUPPORT FROM DIFFIDENT AND UNWILLING

U.S. CONGRESS. SAID U.S. RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL SETBACKS
SOUTH VIETNAM SINCE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS WERE PRODUCED BY
WASHINGTON. THUS U.S. OBLIGATED PROTECT SOUTH AGAINST
NORTH'S VIOLATIONS THESE ACCORDS. BUT U.S. HAS NOT KEPT
PROMISES. UNITED DAILY NOTED AMERICANS NOW TALKING ABOUT
DOMINO THEORY. WHAT NEEDED IS AN AMERICAN RESCUE EFFORT,
SUCH AS IN GREECE YEARS AGO.
CLARKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: THE PRESS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI01413
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750099-0560
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750326/aaaaawyt.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <31 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, TW, XC, VS
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006